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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,375	10/10/2002	Tony Lou	13902-1	1011

23676 7590 12/08/2004

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EXAMINER

PHAN, RAYMOND NGAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2111

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/065,375	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LOU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Raymond Phan	<b>Art Unit</b> 2111	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06022003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                                |

### **Part III DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Notice to Applicant(s)***

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-7 are pending.
2. The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2111.

#### ***Specification***

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al. (US No. 6,671,756) in view of Dickens et al. (US No. 6,549,966).

In regard to claims 1, 5, 7, Thomas et al. disclose a signal switch for sharing a video monitor 37, a plurality of console devices 31, 32, 2 compliant with an industry standard and one or more than one peripheral device in any of a plurality of computer systems (see figure 6, col. 6, lines 36-55), comprising: a CPU 46 comprising a first memory 53 for storing a management program for managing the signal switch (see figure 9, col. 8, lines 34-67); a hub switch module 41 connected to the CPU and configured to communicate with any of the plurality of computer systems 13, and the one or more than one peripheral device 45, such that a signal

passing from the hub switch module to the one or more than one peripheral device emulates origination from a computer (see figure 8, col. 7, line 42 through col. 8, line 33); and a video control module 44 connected to the CPU and configured to communicate with a video monitor device 45 (see figure 8, col. 7, line 42 through col. 8, line 33). But Thomas et al. do not specifically disclose a device control module for emulating according to the industry standard the plurality of console devices, connected to the CPU and the hub switch module; a host control module connected to the CPU and configured to communicate with the plurality of console devices. However Dickens et al. disclose the data routing device for use in routing serial data between a computer and a peripheral comprising a device control module for emulating according to the industry standard the plurality of console devices, connected to the CPU and the hub switch module (see col. 3, lines 12-28); a host control module connected to the CPU and configured to communicate with the plurality of console devices (see col. 3, lines 41-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Dickens et al. within the system of Thomas et al. because it would be desirable for cost, convenience and space saving reasons to share peripherals between groups of computers.

In regard to claim 2, Thomas et al. further disclose an OSD control device connected to the CPU and the video control module (see col. 8, col. 7, line 42 through col. 8, line 33).

In regard to claim 3, Dickens et al. disclose the host control module comprising a root hub (see col. 3, lines 41-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Dickens et al. within the system of

Thomas et al. because it would be desirable for cost, convenience and space saving reasons to share peripherals between groups of computers.

In regard to claim 4, even though the teaching of Dickens et al. do not specifically disclose wherein the industry standard is the Device Class Definition for Human Interface Devices (HID), however one skilled in the art would have understood that they can choose to have Device Class Definition for Human Interface Devices (HID) such as barcode scanner, camera, mouse, etc to fulfill their need.

In regard to claim 6, Thomas et al. disclose wherein the management program comprises steps for managing the signal switch, and the method of claim 5 (see figure 8, col. 7, line 42 through col. 8, line 33).

### ***Conclusion***

6. All claims are rejected.

7. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Fredderick et al. (US No. 6,314,479)** disclose a universal multi-pin plug and display connector for standardizing signals transmitted between a computer and display for a PC theatre interconnectivity system.

**Kumata (US No. 6,715,010)** discloses a bus emulation apparatus.

**Rafferty et al. (US No. 6,324,605)** disclose a computer and peripheral switch with USB.

**Bealkowski (US No. 6,697,905)** discloses an apparatus for providing I/O support to a computer system and method of use thereof.

**Gough (US Pub No. 2003/0005186)** discloses a peripheral sharing device with unified clipboard memory.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Raymond Phan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3630. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30AM- 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary, Paul Myers can be reached on (571) 272-3639 or via e-mail addressed to paul.myers@uspto.gov. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [raymond.phan@uspto.gov].


All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 central telephone number is (571)272-2100.

RP

**Raymond Phan**  
12/2/04

  
PAUL R. MYERS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER